

February 28, 1974

PRESIDENT: You've heard the motion to adopt the amendments to LB822. All those in favor of that motion please say aye. Those opposed say no. The amendments are adopted.

SENATOR STULL: Now, I move the bill as amended be advanced to E & R for Engrossing.

PRESIDENT: The motion now is to advance LB822 as amended. All those in favor of advancing the bill please say aye. Those opposed say no. So ordered, the bill's advanced. Okay, let's take up LB646.

CLERK: LB646, the amendment by Senator Carpenter.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, we're ready now for your amendments to LB646, which was returned from Final Reading, to Select File.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I move for the adoption of the amendments. It's pertaining to the county officers who can have up to March 15th to readjust the salaries up or down if they so desire. It only applies in 1974.

PRESIDENT: Now, let the Chair remind the Body we are now debating the amendment that Senator Carpenter offered on LB646 which was on Final Reading earlier this morning and which now has been returned to Select File. Senator Nore, did you want to be heard on the amendment or do you have a question?

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and fellow members. When we sometime ago, a few years ago, when we allowed the county commissioners and supervisors to set their own salaries, it was one of the most unpopular things we did and one of the, I'd say, probably one of the worst things, that we did. In Boone County they doubled their salary 100% while they doubled the salary and I don't know. It looks to me like if we keep doing these things here, we're being rocked to sleep on real estate taxes now, which historically we have always put a lid on expenditures of county government so that they can't confiscate our property. We keep taking these things off, some day we're going to have to put them back on again in order that we can retain title to our property. It's going to end up as confiscation of our real estates, our homes, and then we're going to be here trying to put the lid back on again. So this is taking the lid off and I oppose it.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I just want to reply. I don't want a long discussion of this, Senator Nore. I've made observation of county board meetings generally. It's a rare case when any citizen ever comes to see what the county commissioners collectively are doing. Now, the reason the law was changed, we put the burden on the county board to do what they want to do but before the election so the people are alerted to what they want to do so if they don't like it, they can get themselves another boy or girl. Now, what is really wrong with this state and country is the citizen. The citizen himself is almost completely disinterested from those who spend his money. That's the problem.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. In answer to Senator Carpenter's last statement, it doesn't seem to be indicative of what happened in Douglas